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D. Bell

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Erik R. Thoen et al.
Serial No. : 09/542,061
Filed : April 3, 2000
Title : SEMICONDUCTOR ELEMENTS FOR STABILIZING LASER OUTPUT

Art Unit : 2881
Examiner : J. Menefee

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 20, 2001

In response to the office action, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 20 to read as follows:

a1
B

1. A laser system that produces radiation at an operative wavelength, the system defining a laser cavity, and the system comprising:
a mode-locking element configured to mode-lock output of the laser system; and
a semiconductor element that produces nonlinear increasing loss at the operative wavelength sufficient to enhance stability of the mode-locked output.

a2

20. A laser system that defines a laser cavity, the system comprising:
a pump;
a gain medium that produces radiation at an operative wavelength when pumped by the pump;
an element that actively mode-locks output of the laser system;

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